

# Coal Dust What is it?

Dust you can see



Dust you can't see

The dust you can see gets stirred up when a train, truck or anything moves past. There are peaks in dust when any train first arrives because it pushes air ahead of the train and stirs up the dust from the ground. Coal wagons are typically behind one or two locos and while some dust can come off the top, most of the dust is stirred up from soil, rocks or plants and leaves on the ground.<sup>1</sup>



## Black Dust

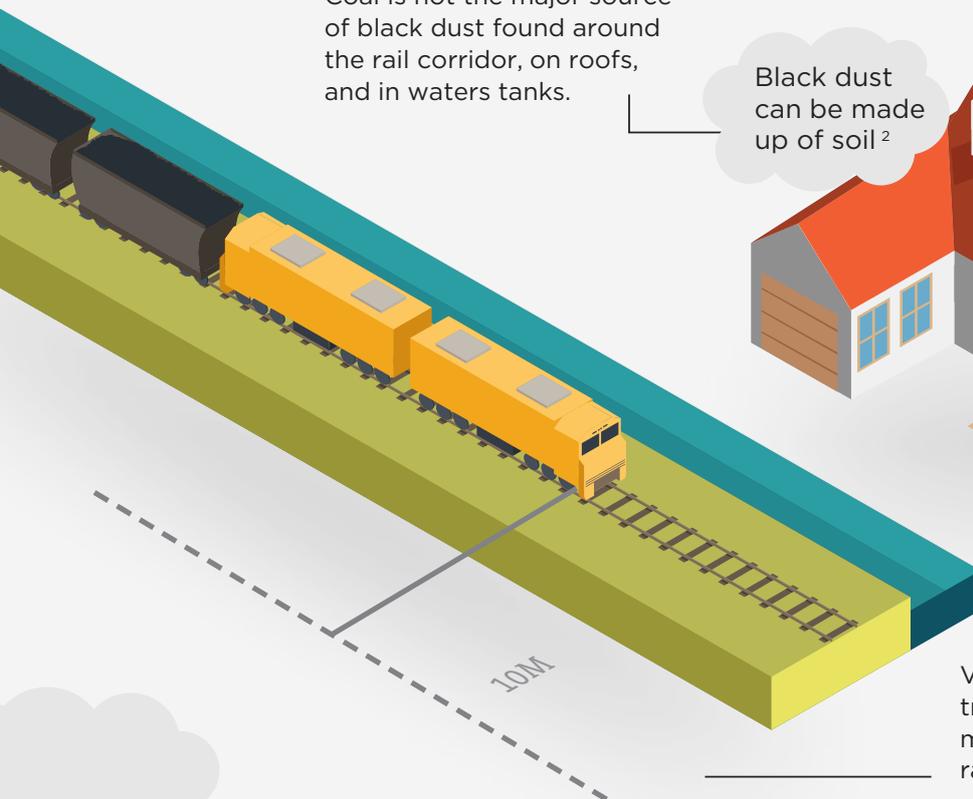
Coal is not the major source of black dust found around the rail corridor, on roofs, and in waters tanks.

Black dust can be made up of soil<sup>2</sup>

soot

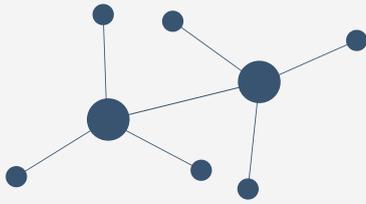
black tyre rubber

mould<sup>2</sup>



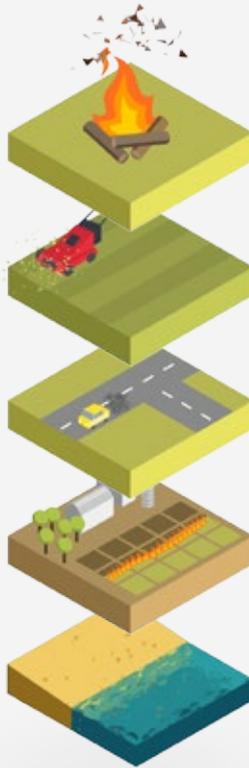
Very little coal travels more than 10 metres beyond the rail corridor.<sup>3</sup>

# PM10 & PM2.5



**PM10 & PM2.5**  
are microscopic particles found in dust.

Sources of particulate matter can be either man made or occur naturally in the atmosphere. PM10 & PM2.5 are generated by lots of things including home fires, lawn mowers, vehicle exhaust, agricultural burning and salt from the sea air.<sup>1</sup>



Research conducted on the South West System found that of the dust deposited along the rail corridor, coal represented on average 10% of the PM10 particles in the surface area tested.<sup>1</sup>

**Over 80%** of PM10 particles come from other sources



Similar studies in New South Wales showed that coal represented less than 14% of PM2.5 particles in dust deposited along the rail corridor.<sup>4</sup>



Is it possible to get rid of PM particles? The simple answer is no. PM10 & PM2.5 particles will exist no matter what we do.

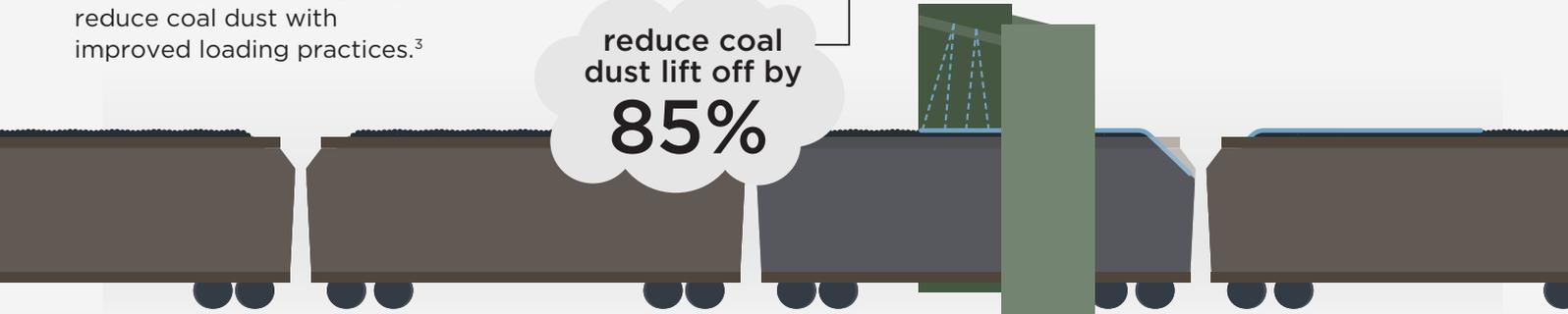
## Dust Mitigation

Members of the coal supply chain understand that dust can be irritating and are proactively addressing ways to reduce coal dust with improved loading practices.<sup>3</sup>

All loaded coal in Queensland is sprayed with a biodegradable veneer.

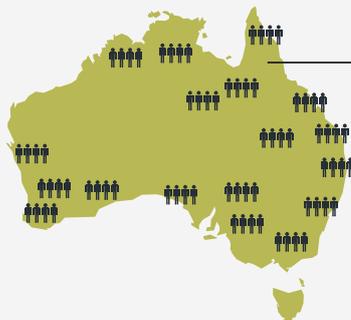
reduce coal dust lift off by **85%**

Aurizon and supply chain partners are continuing to develop and implement appropriate and effective dust mitigation practices.



## Coal Industry

The Coal Industry has been an important part of Australia's economy since early European settlement.



Local communities around Australia rely on the coal industry.<sup>5</sup> It is one of Australia's largest export earners and employs more than

**55,000** & **100,000**  
people directly people indirectly

To find out more about The Coal Dust Management Plan visit [aurizon.com.au](http://aurizon.com.au)

1. Department of Science, Information Technology, Innovation and the Arts, Western Metropolitan Rail Systems Coal Dust Monitoring Program March-June 2013.  
2. New Hope Group, Rail Coal Dust Report, 2013. AMCP Laboratory Report, characterisation of domestic dust, Emu Place, Laidley. Connell Hatch, Final Report, Environmental Evaluation of Fugitive Coal Dust Emissions from coal trains Goonyella, Blackwater and Moura Coal Rail Systems for QR Limited, March 2008.

3. Connell Hatch, Final Report, Environmental Evaluation of Fugitive Coal Dust Emissions from coal trains Goonyella, Blackwater and Moura Coal Rail Systems for QR Limited, March 2008.  
4. Lower Hunter Air Quality Monitoring Report 2012, NSW Office of Environment and Heritage.  
5. Queensland Resources Council - [www.qrc.org.au](http://www.qrc.org.au)

